

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-56 (Canceled).

57 (New). A tool system comprising
a composite instrument comprising a cannula and a trocar inserted into the
cannula, the composite instrument including a composite handle sized and configured to be
grasped by a hand to transmit rotational and/or longitudinal forces to the composite instrument
sufficient to advance the composite instrument through tissue and/or bone,

the composite handle comprising a first portion coupled to the trocar and a
second portion coupled to the cannula, the first portion being separable from the second portion
in response to withdrawal of the trocar from the cannula,

the second portion having a size that is less than the size of the first portion.

58 (New). A tool as in claim 57
wherein the first functional instrument is a trocar instrument.

59 (New). A tool as in claim 57
wherein the second functional instrument is a cannula instrument.

60 (New). A tool as in claim 57
wherein the second functional instrument is a cannula, and
wherein the first functional instrument is a trocar sized for passage through the
cannula.

61 (New). A tool as in claim 60
wherein the trocar is longer than the cannula.

62 (New). A tool as in claim 57
wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit longitudinal force to the
composite instrument.

63 (New). A tool as in claim 57

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit rotational force to the composite instrument.

64 (New). A tool as in claim 57

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit both longitudinal and rotational forces to the composite instrument.

65 (New). A tool as in claim 57

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to receive a striking force.

66 (New). A tool as in claim 57

wherein the composite handle is constructed of material resisting deformation when a striking force is applied.

67 (New). A tool comprising

a first functional instrument including a first handle, and

a second functional instrument including a second handle,

the first functional instrument engaging the second functional instrument to form a composite instrument,

the first handle mating with the second handle when the first handle is in either of a first position and a second position relative to the second handle when the first functional instrument is engaged with the second functional instrument to form a composite handle.

68 (New). A tool as in claim 67

wherein the second position is a rotation of 180° from the first position.

69 (New). A tool as in claim 67

wherein the first handle includes a first securing element, and
wherein the second handle includes a second securing element, and
wherein the first securing element engages the second securing element
when the composite handle is formed to prevent independent rotation of the first and second
instruments.

70 (New). A tool as in claim 67
wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements is a groove.

71 (New). A tool as in claim 67
wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements is a key for
mating with a groove.

72 (New). A tool as in claim 67
wherein the first functional instrument is a trocar instrument.

73 (New). A tool as in claim 67
wherein the second functional instrument is a cannula instrument.

74 (New). A tool as in claim 67
wherein the second functional instrument is a cannula, and
wherein the first functional instrument is a trocar sized for passage through the
cannula.

75 (New). A tool as in claim 74
wherein the trocar is longer than the cannula.

76 (New). A tool as in claim 67
wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit longitudinal force to the
composite instrument.

77 (New). A tool as in claim 67

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit rotational force to the composite instrument.

78 (New). A tool as in claim 67

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to transmit both longitudinal and rotational forces to the composite instrument.

79 (New). A tool as in claim 67

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to receive a striking force.

80 (New). A tool as in claim 67

wherein the composite handle is constructed of material resisting deformation when a striking force is applied.